

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment submitted with the present application presents the above amendments and the following information.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claims 1-10 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 11-15 are presented herein, and are simply clarified claims in which Applicant is presently interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 11-15 are pending in the application for consideration and examination.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITIES UNDER §§119 AND 120

Applicant claims domestic benefit under 35 USC §120 of prior Application No. 09/996,992 filed 30 November 2001, allowed, and the specification of this continuation case has been amended to identify the parent. Applicant also claims foreign priority under 35 USC §119 of JP 2001-122016 filed 20 April 2001, as claimed in the parent, and a certified copy of the priority document was filed 11 March 2002 to complete requirements under 35 USC §119 and 37 CFR §1.55. Written acknowledgment of the completion of requirements and claims for priority under §§119 and 120 are respectfully requested.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present

application are without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Further, Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area telephone 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

This Preliminary Amendment is filed with the present continuation and is therefore timely. Please charge any actual fees due to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing Case No. 500.40834CX1).

Respectfully submitted,



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